



# Newsletter From Rep. Matthew J. Shepherd

## District 97

April 3, 2025

### Summary for Thursday, April 3, 2025

On Thursday, the Arkansas House of Representatives passed several bills addressing a range of issues.

HB1786 expands eligibility for tuition benefits, allowing soldiers and airmen of the Arkansas National Guard to receive benefits at private colleges and universities. HB1847 authorizes the Arkansas Racing Commission to maintain a statewide self-exclusion list for individuals who voluntarily wish to exclude themselves from casinos.

HB1615 amends laws related to religious nondiscrimination. HB1077 establishes a notification system for the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs to be alerted when a veteran is incarcerated.

HB1875 extends the mandatory period for using an ignition interlock device if an individual attempts to start a vehicle with a blood alcohol level above a certain threshold within the final 60 days of the device's original period.

HB1680 restricts foreign-party-controlled businesses from leasing land in Arkansas, and prohibits a prohibited foreign party from holding an interest in real property or agricultural land near critical infrastructure.

HB1055 mandates health benefit plans for state and public school employees to cover the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related conditions.

HB1150 limits the role of pharmacy benefits managers in obtaining certain pharmacy permits, while HB1896 seeks to abolish the Information Network of Arkansas and transfer its duties to the Division of Information Services, aiming to reduce government fees.

The House will reconvene on Monday at 1:30 p.m.

